



North Dakota Soybean Growers Association

2/5/2021

### Oppose 1487

Chairman Johnson and Committee; Thank you for the time today. My name is Kasey Bitz from LaMoure, ND and on our family farm we raise soybeans, corn, and wheat, are lamb producers and have a cow/calf operation. I also serve as a board member and treasurer for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association.

I am here today to oppose House Bill 1487. As a diverse agriculture operator in North Dakota I understand how important check-off programs are. Producers of all sizes will need these check-off dollars to educate consumers, increase confidence in our products and drive demand for our products. Without mandatory check-off programs there would be no organized effort by farmers, for farmers, to return the investment of these check-off programs while increasing the value of our crops and livestock in North Dakota.

As a young and beginning farmer, I wear many hats including managing to have a full-time job away from the farm to help with the transition to the next generation on our family farm. I rely on support from check-off programs and extension to tell my story about my farm so I can dedicate any extra time to my daily tasks. I oppose House Bill 1487 as I also believe that changes to the beef check-off could lead to a slippery-slope of threatening the value and integrity of the check-off programs we have in-place today for all agriculture commodities. Thank you again and I stand for any questions.